

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

AID-05 /069 W

-----111261 171303Z /43

R 151359Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7450

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KE

SUBJ: LUOS DEJECTED

REF: NAIROBI 5989

1. OTIENO AMBALA, LUO POLITICIAN/BUSINESSMAN AND SON-IN-LAW OF LUO LEADER OGINGA ODINGA, CALLED ON DCM AND CHIEF POLITICAL OFFICER MAY 11. THRUST OF AMBALA'S REMARKS WAS THAT FIASCO OF APRIL 15 STATE HOUSE VISIT (REFTEL) HAS CREATED GREAT DISTRESS AMONG LUOS WHO SEE VP MOI AS DETERMINED TO KEEP THEM OUT OF NATIONAL POLITICAL LIFE AND PRESENTLY HAVING THE CLOUT TO DO SO.

2. AMBALA RECOUNTED HOW LUO CALL ON PRESIDENT HAD BEEN SANDBAGGED BY VP MOI AND NYANZA PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER CHELUGAT DESPITE EARLIER AGREEMENT BY PRESIDENT KENYATTA TO RECEIVE LUOS. AMBALA CLAIMED CHELUGAT HAD DELAYED DELIVERY OF PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO LUO UNION CHAIRMAN AND INVITED DELEGATIONS FROM ALL OVER NYANZA TO ATTEND FUNCTION WHICH WAS AT THAT TIME FOR LUOS ONLY. AMBALA CONTINUED THAT MOI FORCED SHOWDOWN WITH KENYATTA ON THIS ISSUE, CLAIMING RECEPTION OF LUOS WOULD SMACK OF TRIBALISM AND THREATENING TO RESIGN UNLESS PRESIDENT WOULD AGREE TO RECEIVE DELEGATION REPRESENTING NYANZA
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PRONVINCE RATHER THAN JUST LUOS. AMBALA SAID PRESIDENT RELUCTANTLY AGREED DESPITE FACT THAT PLANS TO RECEIVE LUOS HAD PROGRESSED TO POINT THAT RIFT VALLEY PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER HAD ALREADY DRAWN UP PROGRAM.

3. AMBASLA TOLD HOW HE HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY POLICE APRIL 13 WHILE IN NAKURU TO PREPARE MEETING AND TAKEN

BACK TO KISUMU WHERE HE WAS JAILED FOR ELEVEN DAYS WITHOUT FORMAL CHARGES. AMBALA ADMITTED HE RECEIVED SPECIAL TREATMENT BUT CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN DRIVEN TO REMOTE AREA ONE EVENING IN WHAT LOOKED LIKE PLAN TO ELIMINATE HIM. HE CLAIMED THAT SPECIAL BRANCH FINALLY RECOMMENDED HIS RELEASE ON BASIS OF CLEAN DOSSIER.

4. AMBALA SAID LUO COMMUNITY WAS DISTRESSED OVER MOI ASCENDANCY AS LATTER REFUSED ALL CONTACT WITH LUO LEADERSHIP AND SEEMED DETERMINED "TO LOCK THEM UP" WHEN KENYATTA PASSED FROM SCENE. AMBALA SAID MOI KNEW HE WOULD LOSE ELECTION TO IDINGA AND THEREFORE HE HAD TO ISOLATE LUOS. AMBASLA ADDED RUMOR PRESENTLY CIRCULATING THAT MOI HOPED TO ISOLATE BOTH LUOS AND KIKUYUS AND RULE KENYA WITH ALLIANCE OF SMALL TRIBES.

5. AMBALA ADMITTED LUOS HAVE NO STRATEGY IN WAKE OF STATE HOUSE FIASCO AND COMMENTED THAT ONLY KENYATTA'S CONTINUED PRESENCE COULD GIVEN THEM ANY HOPE OF RECOUPING.

6. LIVELY DEBATE ERUPTED IN PARLIAMENT MAY 12 WHEN QUESTION BY PROMINENT LUO MP REQUESTING TRANSFER OF PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER CHELUGAT "BECAUSE HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PUBLIC HAS DETERIORATED" WAS RULED TO HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN. FACTS OF ISSUE NOT YET CLEAR, BUT MATTER SURE TO RESURFACE.

7. COMMENT: STATE HOUSE REBUFF OF APRIL 15 WAS MAJOR BLOW
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TO LUOS LEAVING THEM WITH REALIZATION THAT PRESIDENT KENYATTA IS NOT WILLING TO REHABILITATE ODINGA, THAT MOI IS IMPLACABLE AND EFFECTIVE ENEMY AND THAT THEREFORE THEY DESTINED TO CONTINUE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM POLITICAL LIFE. WE HAVE NO RPT NO REASON TO DOUBT MOST OF AMBALA'S STORY BUT CANNOT ACCEPT THAT MOI FORCED SHOWDOWN WITH KENYATTA. ACCORDING RELIABLE INFORMATION, MOI TREATS KENYATTA WITH UTMOST DIFFIDENCE AND WOULD NOT DATE PUSH HIS OPINIONS OR THREATEN TO RESIGN. OUR VIEW IS THAT KENYATTA STILL MAKES HIS OWN DECISIONS IN THESE MATTERS AND, AS HE HAS DONE THROUGHOUT HIS POLITICAL LIFE, KEEPS HIS REASONS TO HIMSELF AND EVERYBODY ELSE GUESSING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
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